

REMARKS

Claims 1-102 were pending in the application at the time the present Office Action was mailed, claims 52-54, 101 and 102 having been withdrawn from consideration in response to a prior Restriction Requirement. Claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 16, 22, 26, 29, 35-37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 49-55, 66, 73, 81, 101 and 102 have been cancelled, and claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 38-39, 42, 45-48, 56-65, 67-72, 74-80, 82-88, 94 and 98 have been amended by the present response. More specifically, claims 68 and 83 have been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the corresponding base claims and any intervening claims, and claims 87, 88, 94 and 98 have been amended to clarify certain aspects of these claims. Further, claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 38, 39, 42, 45-48, 56-65, 67, 69-72, 74-80, 82 and 84-86 have been amended to change their dependencies. Finally, new claims 103-105, which are substantially similar to cancelled claims 52-54, respectively, have been added by the present response. Based on the foregoing, claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 38, 39, 42, 45-48, 56-65, 67-72, 74-80, 82-100 and 103-105 are currently pending in the present application.

In the present Office Action, claims 1-67, 69-82 and 84-100 were rejected, and claims 68 and 83 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the corresponding base claims and any intervening claims.

In response to the Office Action, the applicant has elected to rewrite claims 68 and 83 in independent form as indicated. Accordingly, claims 68 and 83 are now in condition for immediate allowance, and the objection to these claims should be withdrawn.

The applicant has further elected to cancel claims 1, 2, 6, 10, 16, 22, 26, 29, 35-37, 40, 41, 43, 44, 49, 50-55, 66, 73, 81, 101 and 102 without commenting on or conceding the merits of the rejections of these claims, and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in one or more divisional, continuation, or other applications. Accordingly, the rejections of these cancelled claims are now moot.

The applicant has further elected to change the dependencies of claims 3-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30-34, 38, 39, 42, 45-48, 56-65, 67, 69-72, 74-80, 82 and 84-86 to depend from either allowable claim 68 or allowable claim 83. Accordingly, these dependent claims are now allowable for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable base claim. Therefore, the rejection of these dependent claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 87, 88 and 94 have been amended to clarify certain aspects of these claims. Specifically, these claims have been amended to include an optical temperature sensing device having a thermal chromatic liquid crystal. These claims now distinguish over the applied references for at least this reason, and for the additional features of these claims. Therefore, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn. In addition, claim 98 depends from allowable base claim 94. Accordingly, the rejection of dependent claim 98 should also be withdrawn.

New claims 103-105 have been added by this response. These claims are at least generally similar to previously withdrawn claims 52-54, respectively, and they depend from allowable base claim 83. Accordingly, new claims 103-105 are also allowable over the applied references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and patentably define over the applied art. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6351.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 7, 2005

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